

Bispham Sings To Aid Blind Men in New York

By Sylvester Kadling.

DAVID BISPHAM, most popular of American baritone, gave a song recital at the Blind Men's Improvement Club of New York. He was assisted by Hilda F. Maitland, a blind organist, and by Woodruff Rogers, his accompanist. At the piano. There was a large audience, one-third of which, perhaps, was made up of blind people. Mr. Bispham was in good voice and in his best humor. He never missed a chance to extol the virtues of singing in English to English-speaking audiences. Once, when he sang "When I Was a Page" (from Verdi's "Falstaff") (never mind whether it was by accident or by design, he dropped into Italian and, after he had apologized, he repeated it in English, and making us understand what it was all about, increased our enjoyment of it. He ended with a recitation of Browning's "The Pied Piper of Hamelin," to a rousing accompaniment by Arthur Herg, with the composer at the piano. Mr. Maitland played a professional march by Dr. David D. Wood, the distinguished blind composer, of whom he was a pupil, and Gaston Dethier's "The Brook." His technical skill was reinforced by true taste and broad understanding. The object of the club, composed of 141 blind men, is to "further the interests of its members and other blind men of New York by aiding them in finding employment, relieving their sickness and distress, and adding to their independence and self-respect."

Elna Toft, a Danish soprano, assisted by Jeannine Harrison Irvine at the piano, gave a recital at the Blind Men's Improvement Club of New York last night. It seems a pity that she did not appear here before the season's work, for after she had overcome her nervousness, she disclosed a voice, light it is true, but clear and true, and well under control. The first two parts of her programme were sung in Danish. To Alexander Alabieff's "The Nightingale" she gave a lovely expression. Two songs by her husband, Alfred Toft, "A Tale" and "A Song," showed taste and sentiment. A third part, sung in French, held songs by Saint-Saens and Weckerlin, and a fourth part consisted of the French aria from "The Magic Flute." Mrs. Toft is to be congratulated on beginning promptly at the time announced—8:30 o'clock, and on making her programme only just long enough to keep everybody until the end.

"La Gioconda," sung by the Euro Grand Opera Company at the People's Theatre last night, served to bring back to the cast Matia von Niessen Stone, who sang and impersonated Laura well. Alise Brumada, in the title part, did not lose any of the respect she has earned in other characters. Guido Cecotti, who made his debut as Radames in "Aida" on Monday, was Bruno, Viktora Nazzari was Alvisia, Alessandro Modesti was Barnaba, and Miss Campbell was La Gioconda. That the requirements of the ballet in the "Dance of the Hours" could not be met might go

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